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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**DRUG KINGPIN SENTENCED TO  
LIFE IMPRISONMENT**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that **WILFREDO BARRIOS**, 40, Inglewood, California, was sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday by U.S. District Judge Richard L. Young following his conviction for operating a continuing criminal enterprise and conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. This case was the result of a yearlong investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Evansville Police Department, Gibson County Sheriff's Department, Vincennes Police Department, and Daviess County Sheriff's Department that resulted in the arrest and conviction of fourteen other individuals.

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The investigation largely involved wire surveillance conducted over a cellular telephone used by Brian Davis, organizer of the distribution cell in Evansville.

The organization's kingpin, **BARRIOS**, was convicted by a jury in Evansville on March 12, 2003 for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and engaging in a continuing criminal enterprise. During the wire surveillance, DEA seized forty pounds of methamphetamine, with a street value of over \$1.8 million. Trial testimony established that the organization distributed approximately 1.5 million doses or 1,660 pounds of methamphetamine, with a street value of over \$75 million, during its two years of operation. The testimony established that **BARRIOS** obtained this methamphetamine in Los Angeles and retained couriers to transport the methamphetamine from Los Angeles to hotels near the Indianapolis and Nashville, Tennessee airports.

Before September 11, 2001, the drug couriers transported the methamphetamine via commercial airlines. The heightened airport security measures following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks caused **BARRIOS** to stop using the commercial airlines to transport methamphetamine. **BARRIOS** then used drug couriers to transport the methamphetamine through the interstate highway system. On September 27, 2001, DEA initiated the wire surveillance over the cellular telephone of Davis, who was sentenced to 30 years for his involvement. As a result of the wire surveillance, DEA seized 20 pounds of methamphetamine from the organization on September 30, 2001 in Nashville, Tennessee, 10 pounds of methamphetamine on October 12, 2001 in Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and an additional 10 pounds of methamphetamine on October 25, 2001 in Evansville, Indiana.

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